

**Amendments to the Drawings**

5 The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figs. 2C. In Fig. 2C, reference number  
“201A” has been replaced by “201G”. This amendment is in conformity with the description of  
the drawings in the specification. No new matter has been added.  
Acceptance of the amended drawing (Fig. 2C) is respectfully requested.

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

In the February 23, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-21 under 35 USC § 102(e) as being unpatentable over Gonzalez et al. (US Patent 2005/0088445). Applicants have amended Claims 1-21 to better clarify the inventive embodiments. Claims 1-21 are now pending of which Claims 1, 8 and 15 are independent claims. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the patentability of the claims of the present application in view of the following remarks.

#### **Specification**

In the specifications, the paragraphs have been amended to correct typographical errors. No new matter has been added.

#### **Drawings**

In amended Figure 2C, reference number “201A” has been replaced by “201G” to bring the drawings in conformity with the specification. A copy of annotated sheet along with re- placement sheet is enclosed.

#### **Rejection Under 35 USC § 102(e)**

##### **Claims 1, 8 and 15:**

The Examiner rejected independent Claims 1, 8 and 15 stating:

“As per claims 1, 8 and 15, Gonzalez discloses a PCI-Express connector (fig. 6, 220 i.e. chipset) that can couple at least two devices (fig. 6, 670 i.e. graphic cards) using at least two independent PCI-Express lanes 9fig. 6, 671 i.e. PCI Express0. (paragraphs 28, 67-68, i.e. chipset supports 32 PCI express lanes with being routed into two x 16 PCI Express graphics slot)(Office Action, Page 2-3)

Gonzalez fails to disclose the elements of Claim 1. In particular Gonzalez fails to disclose “a PCI-Express slot for coupling devices to a host system”. The PCI-Express slot comprising “a PCI-Express connector for receiving a card to couple at least two PCI-Express devices using at least two independent set of PCI-Express lanes without using a PCI-Express bridge.” (Amended Claim 1)

Gonzalez discloses a system in Figure 10 where it uses a “splitter” 1080 to connect two graphics card 1070 to chipset 220 via PCI Express 1071. The present invention does not need to use a splitter or a PCI-Express bridge. Instead, a PCI-Express connector receives a card and couples two PCI-Express devices without using a PCI-Express bridge.

5           The Examiner has relied on Figure 6 of Gonzalez that shows two graphics card 670 that are coupled to chipset 220 via 16x PCI Express lanes 671. However, Gonzalez uses multiple graphics slots to support multiple graphics cards 670, as stated by Gonzalez in Paragraph [0066]: “By exploiting the above described PCI Express interconnect, the present invention provides a motherboard that supports two or more high bandwidth PCI-Express graphics slots each capable  
10 of supporting a commonly available , off-the shelf video card.” Gonzalez, also states in paragraph [0056] that “all currently planned PCI Express motherboards will have a single x16 PCI Express slot dedicated solely to support a graphics card.”

In contrast, the present disclosure, as articulated in amended Claim 1 (and Claims 8 and 15) provides a single PCI-Express slot with a connector that can receive a card and connect at  
15 least two PCI-Express devices, without using a PCI-Express bridge. Additional slots, like those stated in Gonzalez are not needed.

Based on the foregoing Gonzalez fails to disclose the elements of amended Claim 1, as well as amended Claims 8 and 15. Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1, 8 and 15 are patentably distinguished over Gonzalez for at least the foregoing reasons. Therefore, Applicants  
20 respectfully request allowance of amended Claims 1, 8 and 15.

Claims 2-7; 9-14 and 16-21:

Claims 2-6 depend from Claim 1; Claims 9-14 depend from Claim 8 and Claims 16-21 depend from Claim 15 and are thus patentably distinguished over Gonzalez for at least the same

reasons provided above with respect to Claims 1, 8 and 15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 2-7, 9-14 and 16-21.

**CONCLUSION**

5 For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe Claims 1-21 are allowable, and a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions regarding the application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned Attorney at (949)-955-1920.

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Respectfully submitted,



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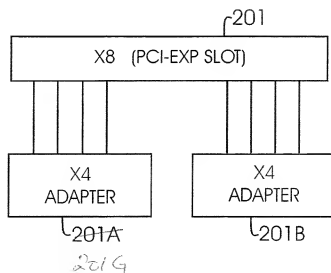


FIGURE 2C

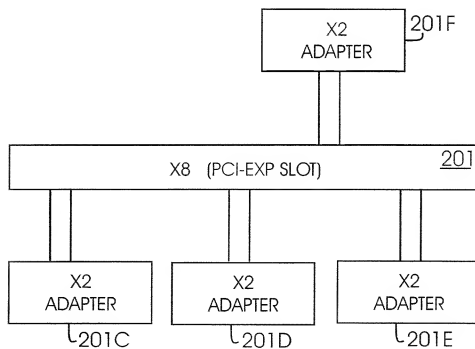


FIGURE 2D